

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. The above amendment is being made to present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The presented amendment is necessary to put the claims in condition for allowance, and was not presented earlier because the current rejection was not made until the Final Office Action. Further, the presented amendment has changed the dependency of the rejected claims 2-9 and 12-13 to depend from allowed claim 11, and has cancelled all other rejected claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner enter the above amendment.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2-9, and 11-13 are pending in the application, with claim 11 being the only independent claim. Claims 1 and 10 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Alden (U.S. 1,445,865). Claims 1 and 10 have been cancelled, rendering such rejection moot. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 11. Therefore, Applicant requests that Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 6.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden (U.S. 1,445,865) in view of Koltookian (U.S. 4,688,962). Claim 2 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 11. Therefore, Applicant requests that Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 2.

Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alden (U.S. 1,445,865) in view of Koltookian (U.S. 4,688,962), and further in view of Thoma (U.S. 6,595,887). Claims 3-5 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 11. Therefore, Applicant requests that Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 3-5.

Other Matters

Claims 7-9, 12 and 13 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a nonelected species. Claims 7-9, 12 and 13 have now been amended to depend from allowable claim 11. Therefore, Applicant request that Examiner consider and allow claims 7-9, 12 and 13.

Claims 8, 9, and 11 have been amended to correct a typographical error. Similarly, paragraphs [0008] and [0013] - [0016] of the specification have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found in original Figures 11 and 14, and original paragraphs [0067], [0068], and [0073] - [0075], for example.

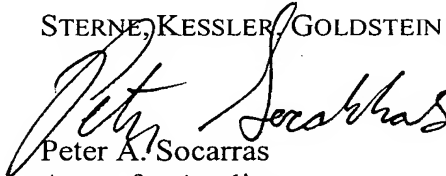
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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